

Serial No.: 10/049,925

### **REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. A check for the additional Claim Fee for one additional independent claim is enclosed.

### **Amendment to the Claims**

Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of allowable Claim 5.

Claim 6 has been amended to include limitations of allowable Claim 10.

Claims 7 and 12, which were indicated as allowable, have been amended into independent form.

All claims have been amended to substitute the phrase “wherein” for the term “characterized in that.”

No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

### **Specification**

The Abstract has been replaced in response to the comments in the Office Action.

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### **Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102**

The rejection of Claims 1, 4, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Berger et al., U.S. Patent 6,061,617, is moot as Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to include limitations of allowable Claims 5 and 10, respectively.

The rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Yoshida et al., U.S. Patent 5,855,159, is moot as Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to include limitations of allowable Claims 5 and 10, respectively.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants thank the Examiner for his efforts in determining that Claims 5 and 7-12 contain allowable subject matter over the prior art of record. Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of Claim 5. Claim 6 has been amended to include limitations of Claim 10, and Claims 7 and 12 have been amended into independent form, thereby placing all claims in condition for allowance.

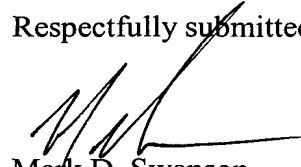
### **Conclusion**

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants have not addressed or resolved in this response, the undersigned attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

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Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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